

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**SB 248 - HB 631**

March 26, 2021

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Requires the Tennessee School of the Deaf, together with the West Tennessee School of the Deaf, to maintain a deaf mentor program to assist families and agencies in implementing home-based programming for children who are deaf, hearing-impaired, or deaf-blind. Requires the project to consist of three programs with one located in each of the Tennessee School of the Deaf campuses in Jackson, Knoxville, and Nashville. Requires the program to make deaf mentors available to hearing parents of children who are deaf, hearing-impaired, or deaf-blind so as to expose the parents to American Sign Language and deaf culture.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

Increase State Expenditures – \$421,800/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (005482):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause and rewrites the bill such that the only substantive change is to establish requirements for parent advisors.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Unchanged from the original fiscal note.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The deaf mentor program will require one position to coordinate the alignment of deaf mentors with families of children who are deaf.
- One Education Consultant 2 position at a midrange salary point will be required which will result in a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$91,802 [(\$70,368 salary + \$18,434 benefits + \$3,000 supplies).
- Travel expenses for the deaf mentor coordinator are estimated to cost \$14,000 per year.
- Deaf mentors and parent advisors will be available in all three Tennessee School of the Deaf campuses across the state.
- The training program for deaf mentors and hearing parent advisors is estimated to cost \$8,000 for each training program for a total of \$16,000 (\$8,000 x 2) per year.

- It is estimated that the deaf mentor program will serve an average of 50 families statewide each year; contracting a deaf mentor and parent advisor for each family is estimated to cost \$6,000 per family for a total of \$300,000 (50 x \$6,000) per year.
- The deaf mentor program will increase state expenditures \$421,802 (\$91,802 + \$14,000 + \$16,000 + \$300,000) in FY21-22 and subsequent years.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/ah